



Bear Lake County

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DEPT. OF LABOR

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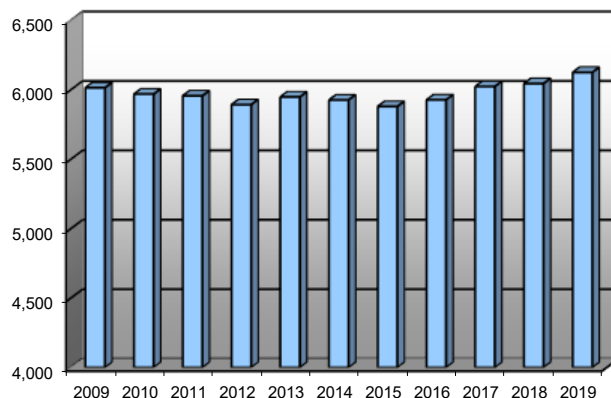
Workforce Trends

Population

Bear Lake County was discovered during the early 1990s. Throughout that decade, half the population growth was spurred by development of affordable recreational homes near Bear Lake, also known as the "Caribbean of the Rockies" for its spectacularly blue water. During the last half of the 1990s, population fluctuated but held fairly steady. By 2002 with population at 6,125 the county started a slow but steady decline, until 2013. The 2019 census population estimates place the county's population at 6,050, the largest since 2007. The local communities in the county continue to work to promote tourism to create jobs and retain young people in the community.

Montpelier, Bear Lake County's largest city with a population of 2,538, is home to the Oregon/California Trail Interpretive Center. Other attractions include the 20-mile long Bear Lake that extends in to Utah, the historic Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Tabernacle in Paris and Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge near the north end of Bear Lake.

Population



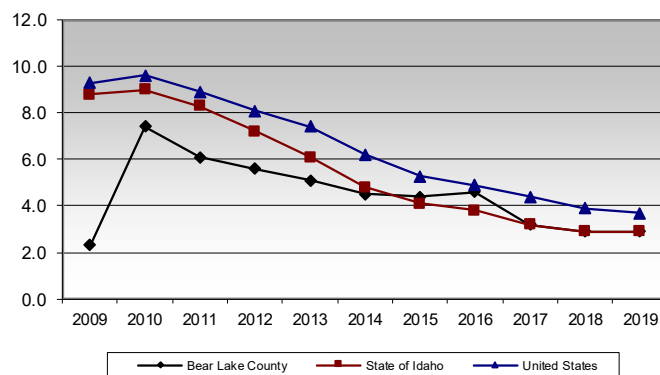
Labor Force & Employment

During the last 10 years, Bear Lake County's labor market has been tight, providing jobs for most individuals who wanted to live in the county.

The unemployment rate in Bear Lake County lagged peaked at 7.4 percent in 2010. Since then, unemployment rates have been in decline. As of 2019 the average unemployment rate for the county was 2.9 percent. The number of unemployed workers have steadily declined from a high of at 214 in 2010.

The largest industries in Bear Lake County include trade, leisure and hospitality and government. Retail trade, accommodation and food service jobs are tied to the county's tourism efforts. The Bear Lake Scenic Highway and the Oregon/California Trail Interpretive Center attract tourists driving between Salt Lake City and Jackson Hole, Wyo., and Yellowstone National Park.

Unemployment Rates



Government accounted for 42 percent of the jobs. The largest employer in the county is Bear Lake Memorial Hospital followed by the Bear Lake County School District #33.

During the last decade the industry composition has changed little with government, trade and services supplying most of the nonfarm jobs.

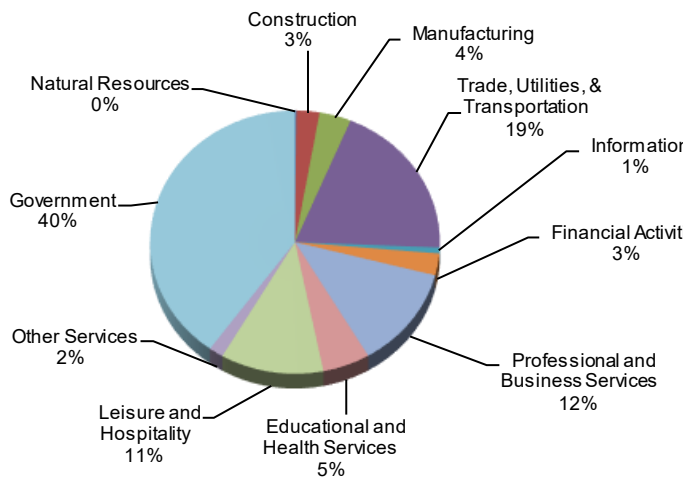
Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	3,000	3,100
Total Employment	2,913	2,977
Unemployed	87	123
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	4.0
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	4.2
U.S. % Unemployed	3.7	8.4

Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	3,158	2,884	2,922	2,882	2,884	2,859	2,830	2,816	2,830	2,856	2,978
Unemployment	73	214	178	161	148	128	124	129	91	83	87
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.3	7.4	6.1	5.6	5.1	4.5	4.4	4.6	3.2	2.9	2.9
Employment	3,085	2,670	2,744	2,721	2,736	2,731	2,706	2,687	2,739	2,773	2,891

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Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



Major Employers

Artic Circle
Bear Lake County
Bear Lake County School District #33
Bear Lake Memorial Hospital
Broulims Foodtown
Jenson Lumber
National Employers Council
U.S. Forest Service
Walton Feed, Inc.

Industry Employment & Wages

Because of Bear Lake County's tourism-based economy, trade, utilities, transportation and leisure and hospitality go hand in hand to provide 30 percent of all covered jobs. But those jobs pay relatively low wages.

Government also provides 40 percent of the jobs, paying higher wages than most other industries.

Wages in Bear Lake County are lower than in most of the state due in large part to the dominance of tourism.

Southeast Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Automotive Service Techs & Mechanics	\$11.70	\$19.02
Clerks, General Office	\$10.61	\$15.15
Construction Laborers	\$11.00	\$15.08
Cooks, Restaurant	\$9.47	\$12.08
Fast Food & Counter Workers	\$8.54	\$10.15
Janitors & Cleaners	\$9.14	\$11.95
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	\$8.55	\$10.52
Registered Nurses	\$25.47	\$32.27
Retail Salesperson	\$9.61	\$13.35
Teachers, Elementary	\$37,910	\$55,360
Teachers, Secondary	\$34,030	\$47,820

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at <https://lmi.idaho.gov/oes>

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	1,691	\$23,761	1,635	\$29,147	1,704	\$29,349
Agriculture	**	**	6	\$35,835	6	\$25,573
Mining	0	\$0	**	**	**	**
Construction	47	\$23,917	40	\$29,355	45	\$27,261
Manufacturing	39	\$27,040	58	\$40,422	62	\$36,987
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	473	\$20,054	296	\$26,506	300	\$28,882
Information	21	\$11,870	15	\$12,453	13	\$13,937
Financial Activities	51	\$26,854	47	\$39,002	47	\$40,496
Professional and Business Services	111	\$38,821	160	\$29,278	218	\$24,692
Educational and Health Services	68	\$21,200	94	\$20,431	92	\$17,190
Leisure and Hospitality	203	\$10,590	197	\$10,988	201	\$10,976
Other Services	27	\$19,887	27	\$29,302	28	\$30,912
Government	647	\$28,377	695	\$35,208	692	\$36,913

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Bear Lake County	\$28,014	\$28,866	\$30,319	\$33,323	\$34,059	\$35,368	\$36,333	\$37,331	\$37,484	\$38,493
State of Idaho	\$31,186	\$31,957	\$33,515	\$35,188	\$36,200	\$37,896	\$39,857	\$40,670	\$42,094	\$43,901
United States	\$39,284	\$40,546	\$42,735	\$44,599	\$44,851	\$47,058	\$48,978	\$49,870	\$51,885	\$54,446

Information provided by Bureau Economic Analysis